

REMARKS

Claim 2 has been cancelled. Claims 1 and 3 through 8 remain pending in the present application. Claims 1, 3 and 4 have been amended. Basis for the amendments can be found throughout the specification, drawings and claims as originally filed.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §102(b)

The Examiner rejected Claims 1, 2 and 4 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Doederlein et al. The Examiner alleges that the Doederlein et al reference illustrates Applicant's invention.

Claim 1 has been amended to further define an elastic member supporting the piezo electric vibration plate on the soundboard to generate a sound from the soundboard transmitted to the piezo electric vibration plate via the elastic member.

The Doederlein et al reference, cited by the Examiner, fails to disclose or suggest such features. Doederlein et al illustrates a metal disk in contact with the soundboard 56. Further, tape holds the metal member in contact with the soundboard. The tape, which the Examiner refers to as the "elastic member", does not transmit the sound from the vibration plate to the elastic member as claimed. In fact, sound is transmitted from the soundboard directly to the metal disk. Accordingly, Doederlein et al does not disclose Applicant's invention, nor would it render Applicant's invention obvious.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

The Examiner has rejected Claims 3 and 5 through 8 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) alleging them to be unpatentable over Doederlein et al in view of Yamada.

The combination of Yamada fails to overcome the deficiencies of the Doederlien et al reference. Accordingly, Applicant believes Claims 3 and 5 through 8 to be patentably distinct over the art cited by the Examiner.

In light of the above amendments and remarks, Applicant submits that all pending claims are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to pass the case to issue at his earliest possible convenience. Should the Examiner have any questions regarding the present application, he should not hesitate to contact the undersigned at (248) 641-1600.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: June 22, 2005

By: 
W. R. Duke Taylor
Reg. No. 31,306

HARNESS, DICKEY & PIERCE, P.L.C.
P.O. Box 828
Bloomfield Hills, Michigan 48303
(248) 641-1600

WRDT/jp